A Famous Prediction of *MERLIN*, the *Britiſh* Wizard; written above a Thouſand Years ago, and relating to this preſent Year.

With Explanatory Notes. By *T. N.* Philomath.

LAST Year was publiſh'd a Paper of Predictions, pretended to be written by one *Iſaac Bickerſtaff*, Eſq; but the true Deſign of it was to Ridicule the Art of Aſtrology, and Expoſe its Profeſſors as ignorant, or Impoſtors. Againſt this Imputation, Dr. *Partridge* hath vindicated himſelf in his Almanack for the preſent Year.

For a further Vindication of this famous Art, I have thought fit to preſent the World with the following Prophecy. The Original is ſaid to be of the famous *MERLIN*, who lived about a Thouſand Years ago: And the following Tranſlation is Two Hundred Years old; for it ſeems to be written near the End of *Henry* the Seventh's Reign I found it in an Old Edition of *Merlin's* Prophecies; imprinted at *London* by *Johan Haukyns*, in the Year 1530, *Pag.* 39. I ſet it down Word for Word in the Old Orthography, and ſhall take Leave to ſubjoin a few Explanatory Notes.

Seven and Ten addyed to nyne,
Of Fraunce bir woe thys is the ſygne,
Tamys ribere twys y-frozen,
Walke ſans wetynge Shoes ne hozen:
Then comyth foozthe, Ich underſtonde,
Fzom Toune of Stokke to ſatryn Londe
In herdie Chiktan, woe the mozne
To Fzaunce, that ebere he was bozne.
Than ſhall the Fythe beweyle his Bokke;
Noz ſhall grin Berris make up the Lokke.
Yonge Symnele ſhall agayne miſcarrye:
And Nozways pzyd agayne ſhall marreye.
And fzom the Tzee where Blokums fele,
Ripe fruit ſhall come, and all is wele.
Reaums ſhall daunce honde in honde,
And it ſhall be merye in olde Inglond.
Then olde Inglond ſhall be no moze,
And no Man ſhall be lozie therefoze.
Geryon ſhall habe thzee Hedes agayne
Till Hapsburge makyth them but twayne.

Expla-

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Explanatory Notes.

Seven and Ten. This Line describes the Year when these Events shall happen. Seven and Ten makes Seventeen, which I Explain Seventeen Hundred, and this Number added to Nine, makes the Year we are now in; for it must be understood of the Natural Year, which begins the First of *January*.

Tamys River twice, &c. The River *Thames* frozen twice in one Year, so as Men to walk on it, is a very signal Accident; which perhaps hath not fallen out for several Hundred Years before, and is the Reason why some Astrologers have thought that this Prophecy could never be fulfilled, because they imagined such a Thing would never happen in our Climate.

From Toun of Stoff, &c. This is a plain Designation of the Duke of *Marlborough*; One kind of Stuff used to fatten Land is called *Marle*; and every body knows that *Borough* is a Name for a Town; and this way of Expression is after the usual dark manner of Old Astrological Predictions.

Then shall the Fishe, &c. By the *Fish* is understood the *Dolphin* of *France*, as their Kings Eldest Sons are called: 'Tis here said, He shall lament the Loss of the Duke of *Burgundy*, called the *Bosse*, which is an Old *English* Word for *Hump-Shoulder*, or *Crook-Back*, as that Duke is known to be; and the Prophecy seems to mean, that he shall be overcome or slain. By the *Green Berrys* in the next Line is meant the Young Duke of *Berry*, the *Dauphin*'s Third Son, who shall not have Valour or Fortune enough to supply the Loss of his Eldest Brother.

Young Symnele, &c. By *Symnel* is meant the Pretended Prince of *Wales*, who if he offers to attempt any thing against *England*, shall miscarry as he did before. *Lambert Symnel* is the Name of a Young Man noted in our Histories for Personating the Son (as I remember) of *Edward* the Fourth.

And Norway's Pryde, &c. I cannot guess who is meant by *Norway's Pride*, perhaps the Reader may, as well as the Sense of the Two following Lines.

Reaums shall, &c. *Reaums*, or, as the Word is now, *Realms*, is the old Name for *Kingdoms*: And this is a very plain Prediction of our Happy *Union*, with the Felicities that shall attend it. It is added, That *Old England* shall be no more, and yet no Man shall be sorry for it. And indeed, properly speaking, *England* is now no more; for the whole Island is one Kingdom, under the Name of *Britain*.

Geryon shall, &c. This redition, though somewhat obscure, is wonderfully adapt. *Geryon* is said to have been a King of *Spain*, whom *Hercules* slew. It was a Fiction of the Poets, that he had Three Heads, which the Author says he shall have again. That is, *Spain* shall have Three Kings; which is now wonderfully verify'd: For besides the King of *Portugal*, which properly is Part of *Spain*, there are now Two Rivals for *Spain*; *Charles* and *Philip*. But *Charles* being descended from the Count of *Hapsburgh*, Founder of the *Austrian* Family, shall soon make those Heads but Two; by Overcoming *Philip*, and Driving him out of *Spain*.

Some of these Predictions are already fulfilled; and it is highly probable the rest may be in due time: And, I think, I have not forced the Words by my Explication, into any other Sense than what they will naturally bear. If this be granted, I am sure it may be also allow'd, that the Author, whoever he were, was a Person of extraordinary Sagacity; And that Astrology brought to such a Perfection as this, is by no means an Art to be despised; whatever Mr. *Bickerstaff*, or other Merry Gentlemen are pleased to think. As to the Tradition, of these Lines having been writ in their Original by *Merlin*; I confess, I lay not much Weight upon it: But it is enough to justify their Authority, that the Book from whence I have transcrib'd them, was printed 170 Years ago, it appears by the Title-Page. For the Satisfaction of any Gentleman, who may be either Doubtful of the Truth, or Curious to be inform'd; I shall give Order to have the very Book sent to the Printer of this Paper, with Directions to let any Body see it that pleases; because, I believe, it is pretty scarce.

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